

2000 intifada, the Palestinian leadership continues to encourage violence through incitement, and through institutional cooperation among the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Additionally, the Palestinian leadership has shown a disturbing proclivity to release terrorists from jails and to allow them to operate freely in the territory under their control. These actions are direct violations of the agreements the Palestinians have signed with Israel and the United States.

H. Con. Res. 280 clearly outlines the steps PA Chairman Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian leadership must take—dismantle and destroy their terrorist infrastructure; arrest and prosecute the terrorists or turn them over to the Israeli government. If the Palestinians do not comply, then as provided under this bill, the President should suspend all relations with Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. The U.S. relationship with the Palestinian leadership has been based on a commitment to renounce violence and terrorism, and to pursue a negotiated settlement with Israel. The violence carried out by suicide terrorists this past weekend comes less than 18 months after the generous compromises offered by Israel at July 2000 Camp David Summit. These compromises included a Palestinian state in all of Gaza and over 95 percent of the West bank, additional land exchanges from inside Israel and a capital in Jerusalem. The response from the Palestinian leadership has been 15 months of murder and terror.

I believe passage of this legislation is a critical step to show our nation's unity with Israeli government and the Israeli people. As a democratic nation, the government of Israel is entrusted with the responsibility to provide security for its citizens. This is nothing less than what Americans expect from their own government. Indeed, Article 51 of United Nations Charter guarantees the inherent right of all member states to self defense. The United States must stand steadfastly with the Israeli government in its fight against Palestinian terror, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in rising before you today to recognize one of the world's greatest and most admired entertainers—Tony Bennett.

World-renowned as an "individual of unequalled excellence," Tony Bennett has remained for over five decades, one of our leading male singers of traditional pop songs who has entertained all age groups with his magnificent voice and dynamic performances. Indeed, he is an American icon whose talents are timeless and who continues to be an inspiration to all generations.

It is said of Tony Bennett that he is a superb performer, a true legend of American music, and a national treasure. While all that may be true, Tony is all those things and so much more.

In addition to entertaining audiences through song, Tony Bennett is also an accomplished painter and author, as well as a devoted philanthropist. Throughout his career, he has participated in many humanitarian causes and concerns. He has raised funds for the American Cancer Society, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, and the Hospice of Baltimore. He has worked with the Center for Handgun Control and has supported environmental issues through such organizations as Save the Rainforest and the Project for Walden Woods.

His charity concerts have also benefited many causes, namely the preservation of the Apollo Theater in my Congressional District of Harlem in New York City.

What many people may not know is that Tony Bennett served as a foot soldier in World War II, and was an active participant in the liberation of a concentration camp. In 1965, he participated in the March on Selma with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and refused to perform in South Africa during the era of apartheid.

Tony Bennett, who celebrated his 75th birthday in August of this year, is a lifelong New Yorker born in the Astoria section of Queens. He attended the High School of Industrial Arts in Manhattan, where he continued nurturing his two passions—singing and painting.

This year, Bennett founded the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in New York as a tribute to his friend and musical mentor.

Recently, friends gathered together to commemorate Tony's extraordinary and enduring career at the pinnacle of popular music, a career that took off shortly after Bob Hope discovered Bennett in a New York nightclub in 1949. That discovery has resulted in scores of albums, ten Grammy awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award, and induction this year (along with Frank Sinatra), into the Black Entertainment in Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to Tony Bennett, an extraordinary entertainer, a true humanitarian, and a champion for all people. Legions of fans of all ages and musical tastes applaud his genius, and we can be assured that the legacy of Tony Bennett will live forever.

#### TRIBUTE TO LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

#### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lebanese American community, who celebrated the 58th anniversary of Lebanese independence on November 30, 2001.

On November 22, 1943 Lebanon obtained its independence from France. Shortly thereafter, Lebanon became a founding member of both the United Nations and League of Arab States. Signaling its commitment to the idea that human rights were global and that it was ready to be a full partner in the post World War II world, Lebanon played an integral part in the drafting of one of the UN's most distinguished documents—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As one of the world's early cradles of civilization, Lebanon has long been held up as an example of prosperity and perseverance. In its recent history, Lebanon has suffered a great deal but to truly understand the spirit of the Lebanese people, one only need to look at the way in which they have rebuilt their nation. While much remains to be done, the nation's progress is an example from which we can all learn.

The United States and Lebanon have been blessed by a historically strong friendship, owing in part to the emigration of Lebanon's sons and daughters. They embraced America with open arms and their contributions helped build a greater nation. This relationship is best exemplified by the following familiar words, first spoken by a proud Lebanese American: "Are you a politician asking what your country can do for you or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country?" Those are the words of Kahlil Gibran, a poet who frequently wove beauty and justice into his work and in the process touched the heart and meaning of America.

Today, I think we have reason to reflect on another of Gibran's contributions, one that holds a great lesson for us all. "To be a good citizen is to acknowledge the other person's rights before asserting your own, but always to be conscious of your own."

Since 1965, nearly 100,000 new immigrants have come from Lebanon. My home state of Michigan has one of the largest Lebanese American communities in the country and it has been actively involved in the life of our great state. The Lebanese community willingly shares its culture and values not only with Michigan, but with the entire nation. The result has been innumerable contributions to the arts, sports, medicine, politics, education, science and industry.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Lebanon, those of Lebanese ancestry around the world and the Lebanese American community in celebrating Lebanese Independence Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

#### IN HONOR OF INGRID S. MASON

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ingrid S. Mason in recognition of her career as an educator and children's advocate.

Ingrid S. Mason's roots became solidly grounded by the legacy bestowed upon her by her maternal grandmother, Alice Crawford. Born in Costa Rica, Ingrid spent her formative years under the nurturing love and guidance of her "Tia" and grandmother. Her roots continued to be firmly set, when at the age of five she migrated to the United States to reunite with her mother Irene. It is from her grandmother, mother and aunts that Ingrid gained her most valuable gifts in life a legacy of faith, independence, determination, and commitment to excellence, a strong work ethic and a positive spirit. This legacy has provided her with the wings to soar.